



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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OCT 28 1976

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We have just been through a very time-consuming and difficult effort to draft human rights reports for the Congress. They were prepared in response to a formal request from Chairman Morgan under Section 502(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Phil Habib, Chuck Robinson and the Secretary himself read the reports before they were finally cleared.

Our experience in this first round, and the certainty that a new Congress will be hungry for more, prompt me to seek your assistance in several ways:

(1) In putting together these reports (on Haiti, Argentina, and Peru), we found that we were not entirely prepared to address ourselves to allegations raised by Amnesty International and other bodies. The necessary information may have been available in your reporting, but our overworked desk officers did not have the time to pull it effectively together. You can help; your help is important given the high credibility Amnesty and others have with Congress.

I would be very grateful if you and your staff would go rather carefully through recent Amnesty and other reports and extract the references to individuals or specific legal situations (e.g. "fair trials are not available"). If you would list each such reference or statement down one side of a spread-sheet, and then state what you know (or don't know) in a facing column, it would be a great service.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

DECONTROL

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full *Declassify*  
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to  
 Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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We are prepared to deal with some of the sweeping generalizations in outside reporting, so do not include them. It is the details over which we keep tripping. For example -- and apart from individual cases -- when an outside report on your country makes the statement that fair trials are not available, you might want to remind us that the generalization applies only to those accused of subversion or terrorism and not to the populace as a whole (making due allowance for the quality of local justice).

Please write page number, date and title of any Amnesty or other such reporting to which you refer.

(2) I want to encourage you -- and all elements of your mission -- to keep detailed chronologies of discussions, representations, programs on the subject of human rights. The Congress does not believe this matter is yet on our agenda. The more detail we can provide, the more credible our picture becomes. Please don't forget to include efforts by USIS, AID, DAO's ad MILGROUPS where pertinent.

It would be most helpful if you could provide both the two-column spread-sheets and the detailed accounts of your activities to us by January 1; I would suggest that you send them by letter to your Office Director. So that you have some idea of what these reports are going to look like, I am enclosing the one on Haiti. It benefitted by some very well organized reporting from Hey Isham. The format of this and similar reports, incidentally, is dictated by Section 502(B) (c) (1) of the Act, which you might want to have a look at.

I know how much time many of you are already devoting to this subject, but we simply have to establish -- to Congressional satisfaction -- that we are paying detailed attention to it, that we are familiar with what Amnesty and others are reporting, and that we are active. Then, and only then, can we hope to get discussions of this subject with Congress

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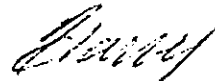
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on what I would consider the right track: what, as a society, are we trying to accomplish; what can we hope to accomplish; and how should we go about it?

Many thanks for your help and all best wishes,

Sincerely,



Harry W. Shlaudeman  
Assistant Secretary for  
Inter-American Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.



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